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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
LANSING

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INTERIM DIRECTOR

Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan
Lenawee Intermediate School District
4107 N. Adrian Hwy.
Adrian, Michigan 49221

October 11, 2013
Meeting Minutes No. 291

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Gil Guzman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Gil Guzman, Noel Garcia, Jr., Norma Huizar, Carlos Alvarado, Osvaldo Rivera, JoAnn Chavez, Julio Morales (late)

Excused Absence: Gilberto Guevara (family commitment), Raquel Castaneda-Lopez (personal commitment), Jesse Venegas (work commitment), Carlos Sanchez (work commitment), Julia Guevara (work commitment)

Unexcused Absence: Melissa Fernandez

Staff Present: Marylou Mason, Victoria Garcia

II. Introduction of Commissioners

Chairman Guzman asked Commissioners and staff to introduce themselves. He stated new Commissioner, Osvaldo Rivera, was present for his first meeting and asked him to give a brief introduction.

Commissioner Rivera stated he is the Director of Community Engagement for Southwest Solutions in Detroit. He added although new to this current position, he has been active in the Hispanic community for years.

III. Welcoming Remarks

Superintendent Jim Phillips welcomed the Commission to the Adrian area. He added Lenawee Intermediate School District buildings are always opens to the Commission. He stated that his community is blessed to have Ms. Emily Martinez who is still very active and works with everyone in her community.

IV. Approval of Absences: Commissioner absences: Gilberto Guevara (family commitment), Raquel Castaneda-Lopez (personal commitment), Carlos Sanchez (work commitment), Jesse Venegas (work commitment), Julia Guevara (work commitment)

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia moved to accept the absences of Commissioners Gilberto Guevara, Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, Carlos Sanchez,

Jesse Venegas, and Julia Guevara. Motion supported by Commissioner Huizar. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Rivera moved to accept the agenda of October 11, 2013. Commissioner Huizar supported the motion. Motion carried.

V. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia moved to accept the minutes of June 14, 2013. Commissioner Alvarado supported the motion. Motion carried.

VI. Special Presentation: Ms. Linda Lee Tarver, Director of Community Affairs & Election Integrity, Office of the Secretary of State, Ruth Johnson:

Ms. Tarver thanked the Commission for inviting her to the meeting and for the opportunity to discuss accomplishments and current projects the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) is working. She stated she has worked for the state of MI for 29 years with 25 of those years with the Secretary of State's Office. She has served under four Secretaries of State: Richard Austin, Candace Miller, Terri Lynn Land, and Ruth Johnson. She has been a legislative analyst, project manager and now as Director of Community Affairs & Election Integrity. The Department of State has morphed into a lean machine, working harder, faster and better with less funding. Her department collects millions of dollars each year's but those dollars are the department's dollars. They are a quasi-revenue generated department but not funded by the taxes and dollars they collect at the branch offices. Those funds go to transportation and education and different areas.

She stated that Ruth Johnson is a former County Commissioner, former County Clerk and former State Representative. One of Ms. Johnson's commitments is to make sure they reach out to communities that they serve to make sure they are meeting the needs of the people. The Department of State has regulatory duties to regulate dealers, mechanics, notaries and other entities, they also have election administration duties, customer services duties to issues licenses and tabs and a variety of other responsibilities including record keeping of the master qualified voter files, and for vehicle titling and driver licensing. This information is available to law enforcement, Dept of Homeland Security, insurance companies and many other entities. The Secretary of State has 131 branch offices (down 30% from years ago) and they provide online services. You don't have to go into a SOS's office if you lose your driver license or need a duplicate copy of your registration anymore. You can order a copy online at expresssos.com and order a new one. They also offer 30 24-hour kiosks around the state where you can get your license tabs. The kiosks currently accept credit cards but they are exploring a cash kiosk. They have put them in state office but didn't receive enough usage to continue. They are exploring

partnerships with retail stores such as Meijer to have a SOS kiosk. There are 2 kiosks in two Meijer stores.

Another initiative to save lives in the city of Detroit is the push for gift of life – the organ donor registry. They are trying to increase their minority donor list. When Ruth Johnson took Office, she changed the SOS Office procedures and now agents ask everyone if they want to be an organ donor. By making this a procedure, she has increased donors by one million since she took office.

SOS is starting to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to encourage them to work with the littles to offer graduated driver licensing, phase 1. The graduated driver licensing saves lives so it is a good partnership. When the state took away drivers education in the schools, minority children and those in the inner city were mostly affected and suffered. Driving is a life skill and it helps with employability.

Commissioner Chavez stated as a board member of the MI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce she offered to make connections with the SOS.

Ms. McLellan asked about the 600 individuals registered to vote who are not eligible due to not being U.S. citizens. Ms. Tarver stated that by law they are not allowed to remove people from the voter rolls, however what SOS is doing is sending letters to those individuals asking them if they are U.S. citizens and if they are not to please contact their county clerk's office to have themselves removed. To date, thirty people have responded they are not U.S. citizens and are being removed. Ms. Tarver stated this has occurred as a result of their clerks asking people if they want to register to vote when they visit the branch office. The SOS is not referring these people for prosecution, they are just trying to make the records accurate.

Ms. Mason stated that she received a call from an individual who received one of the SOS letters and the multiple names used in the Hispanic community may pose a problem. Ms. Mason stated the individual is a U.S. citizen but her multiple names have been turned around. Ms. Tarver said she understands that can be a problem and is very willing to work with Ms. Mason to work the problem out. Commissioners Rivera and Alvarado agreed that is a problem. Commissioner Alvarado stated he has a client that has to go to court to get his name changed because the name on his license differs from the name on his social security card. Ms. Tarver told Commissioner Alvarado to contact her for assistance. Ms. Tarver stated there is a length of name limit but it is being extended to 102 characters from the 36 character limit. Commissioner Garcia added that he remembered when the migrant students that were allowed to go to school but were not allowed to receive a driver license

(DACA). Commissioner Garcia stated it was nice to have a direct line of communication with the SOS and assist with issues.\

VII. Public Forum

Mary McLellan, Commission Liaison, Dept. of Civil Rights: Chairman Guzman stated that the MI Dept. of Civil Rights oversees five commissions: Women's Commission, Asian Pacific American Commission, Hispanic/Latino Commission, Deaf & Hard of Hearing and Arab Caldeon. Ms. McLellan is the liaison for the five Commissions. Mr. Guzman stated she tried to attend as many meetings as her schedule allows.

Emily Martinez, Community Advocate: Ms. Martinez reported on her areas migrant resource council's activities. There are many people who are working with migrant community and they need to know who they are. She stated last week someone was asking migrants for personal information. She said she wasn't happy because they called her and she didn't know who they were. She said people won't respond to those individuals who they do not know or trust. She did invite this person to their next meeting.

She said this has been a good year and they have many different programs. She announced that on October 29th they will have their final meeting at the stables in Blissfield. The meeting is at 12:00noon and is a luncheon. Ms. Mason noted that the Commission has partnered with Ms. Martinez in the past to do the yearly welcome for the migrants.

Chairman Guzman asked Ms. Martinez to send meeting information to the office so it can be distribute to the Commission.

She stated they held their Hispanic Heritage Month events with the kick-off on the September 16th. They hosted 13 students from the school in their area. The attendance from the schools is low because of money. Low attendance and participation is problematic for their programs because of the low number of farmworkers being in the area. This may be a problem for next year for the migrant Head Start program and their education programs. She was hopeful that a representative from the Dept. of Education would have attended this meeting.

Ms. Martinez asked Commissioners if they had questions about the migrant program.

Commissioner Chavez thanked and commended Ms. Martinez for her work and stated that while in college she worked at Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Program, as well as being a participant of Head Start as a child in Detroit. She asked how many Hispanics were in the Adrian area and of that number how many were migrants? She also inquired if the students are tracked? She added she would be very interested in seeing reports and the progression of our students. With numbers we are able to tell a better story. Data is so important. She added she sits on a

number of boards, including the DTE Foundation Board and this type of data and statistics persuades the board to assist in a number of areas.

Visitor Todd Barrus oversees the migrant staff. He stated that Lenawee County has a large population of Hispanics. In the last three years, the migrant population has decreased pretty drastically. The reason for that is how the way the growers do business and last year the season was very bad. 60-80 % of the migrant families come back year after year. Some have changed from families to single adults simply because it's easier and cheaper. The DHS caseload count has stayed steady compared to last year. He did not that they do not service every migrant family or individual. He estimated approximately 40-60 migrants in his area but he says it changes from month to month, from year to year. Every year he stated that there are a few that decide to stay and they change from migrant to seasonal farmworker. He stated it would be tough to give a total number of Hispanics serviced.

Commissioner Chavez asked if most of the Hispanics were migrants. Todd Barrus stated he wouldn't say most were migrants. Ms. Martinez added that in Lenawee County there are both migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Ms. Martinez said there is about 35% Hispanic population in their area.

Commissioner Alvarado asked if his office serviced all the established Hispanic families. Todd Barrus stated his office services all families that qualify for their services in Lenawee County. He stated they have two new Hispanic workers that have gone out into the camps and assisted those that qualify with the online application process for the Bridges system.

Commissioner Chavez asked what percentage of Head Start kids are citizens? Ms. Martinez stated they don't ask. They are volunteers. If they tell them, they don't document because that is not their purpose. Commissioner Chavez stated she understands that but for funding purposes or for deferred action, it would be important. She also added it is easier to get United Way dollars if they know and United Way is focusing on early education because they are trying to fill the gap where Head Start isn't able to.

Todd Barrus stated he thought about 99% of the children were U.S. citizens but the parents usually are not.

Commissioner Rivera asked what other populations, other than Mexican, are migrants? Chairman Guzman stated it depended on the part of the state but he and Director Mason stated Honduran, Scandinavian, Jamaican, Russian, Haitian, and African Americans. Commissioner Rivera stated he knows in the 30's there were Puerto Ricans that worked in the fields. Chairman Guzman stated there are still some Puerto Rican workers in the Lapeer area to work on the mushrooms. Commissioner Alvarado stated that in the last few years the Mexican Consulate has been very active in actually counting the people. Most of the issue of immigration, they are carrying a Mexican Matricula Consular card issued by the Consul's Office. In the Midwest states such as Illinois, Ohio and Indiana and Michigan, there are 9

different site that they go to for the Matricula. There are 4 sites in Michigan alone. They generally do 240-400 fichas....which is an appointment for them to go get their card. Ms. Mason stated she has volunteered her time for many years assisting with the Mobil Matricula Consular. Chairman Guzman also noted he volunteers with this as well.

Guest Pilar Horner: Ms. Horner stated she is an assistant professor and researcher at Michigan State University and she has wanted to collaborate with the Migrant Resource Council to research health initiatives. She stated that to find the needed data on Hispanics has been an enormous task. She has recently completed a report on health and mental health of children of mixed status who document or undocumented who live with the stress of having one or two of their parents deported. She has worked with the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, a grass roots organization that does the first response for immigration deportations.

Commissioner Morales indicated the mental health report may be valuable to the Education and Health Committee. Chairman Guzman asked Ms. Horner to please send the report to Vicky in the Commission Office.

VIII. Executive Reports

A. Chairperson's Report:

Chairman Guzman stated that for the last meeting in Ludington that he and the Executive Director made many trips back and forth to coordinate and meet with the various individuals to schedule the camp visits and Commission Meeting. During this time, Ms. Mason and I discussed the idea of taking the Education Summit on the Road. The idea has continued to grow and skyrocket. Last week I was scheduled to meet with the Superintendents of VanBuren County but due to a scheduling conflict, Ms. Mason went and met with them. This same idea has been proposed to the Ludington area, the Holland School District and to the Saginaw School District. In the past we have held a Student Education Summit where we invited school districts from around Michigan to Lansing to hear a motivational speaker, have student leadership workshops and a career fair with recruiters from universities and colleges. Many school districts haven't been able to participate because of the costs involved with buses, etc. Last year, Chairman Guzman was able to gain sponsorship from Fifth Third Bank and another organization for a couple buses so students from the Holland and Detroit area could attend the Summit. In Paw Paw, they have found an auditorium that will accommodate 1,000 students. We have talked to six different school districts so far and they are willing to send their students in the morning to this auditorium so we can do a student summit. In the afternoon, we have spoken to the South Haven School District where we have invited seven schools. In the following days, the same would be repeated Holland, Ludington and Saginaw. There are a few more school districts we are considering, including Lenawee County

and surrounding counties. The Commission would hold this Education Summit in partnership with the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute. Currently, we are establishing dates and locations and finding sponsors to help us pay for expenses. Taking the Education Summit on the road is easier and less expensive for the school districts as well as for us not having to pay for meals, etc. We will also be including the Native Americans in this venture. The high school drop-out rate is very high for Hispanic, Native Americans and African Americans. Commissioner Huizar inquired if our target was middle school or high school students? Chairman Guzman stated in the past it has been high school students but he believes we should include middle school students "to catch them before we lose them." Ms. Mason stated we don't turn any students away.

Commissioner Rivera stated he has been involved with an educational program with the Detroit Public Schools and his employer. They have been awarded a grant to develop a model in eight schools in primarily Hispanic communities. The model is built around a national model to bring community resources and sharing leadership. This will impact thousands of families in that area. A part of k-12 program will be parent engagement. Chairman Guzman stated that perhaps there is a way we can work together.

Chairman Guzman announced that in response to the Chairman and Executive Director meeting with Senator Kahn, Chair of the Appropriations Committee, we were given a supplement for our budget that allowed us to cover the salaries of our two employees and purchase some necessary items and cover end of year purchases and event expenses. Commissioner Chavez requested Commissioners get copies of the budget as it would be helpful in the Strategic Planning for the coming year. The office will provide a copy of the Commission budget.

B. Executive Director's Report:

Director Mason stated Commissioners have had the opportunity to review her report and she entertained any questions they may have.

Director Mason reported that Advocacy Day was held different than in past years. Commissioner Alvarado suggested we hold it in a "town hall" type setting and allow the community to ask questions of the legislators. Mr. Rick Garcia was our moderator and Commissioners Huizar and Alvarado asked the pre-determined questions. State Representatives Harvey Santana, Rendon and Yanez participated in answering questions. Newly elected Michigan Board of Education member Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny also participated on the legislative forum. We had wonderful feedback from the community on the format. As well as the legislators providing positive feedback on how the day was held. Ms. Mason stated legislators were pleased to receive questions prior to the forum to be prepared for the

participating audience. We provided a luncheon for the legislators, their staff and attendees. The lunch was held on the state capitol lawn.

In reference to the Education Summit, we have received nothing but positive comments on the idea of the Commission going to the schools - vs- the schools coming to us. Ms. Mason stated we expect to hopefully start the Education Summits at the end of November.

Following the Advocacy Day, we held our Hispanic Heritage Recognition & Chavez Commemorative Dinner at the Kellogg Center. The dinner was very well attended and we had to add tables and chairs to accommodate everyone in attendance. The speaker was Ms. Marissa Rivera, motivational and leadership speaker from Florida. The Commission gave six awards to outstanding Hispanic leaders in the areas of: Arts, Lifetime Achievement, Advocate, Business, Educator and Non-Hispanic Educator, as well as Legislator of the Year, Past Chair Award and Hispanic Entrepreneur of the Year Award. For the Hispanic Advocate Award, the awardee was Mr. John Lopez. Unfortunately, Mr. Lopez was unable to attend as he was very ill and in the hospital. His children accepted the award on behalf of their father. Ms. Mason stated that with much regret, Mr. John Lopez lost his battle with cancer. The Commission will send out a notice by email.

This year we were able to provide eight \$1,000 scholarships. These students are all from low-income families. Four of the students were from Imlay City. Awardees vary from where the applications are received from. This year we received many from Imlay City. We had four school superintendents from the western part of the state in attendance.

Commissioner Alvarado suggested the scholarship applications be sent to Commissioners so they can send to key people in their areas.

Ms. Mason thanked the Commissioners that were able to attend these events.

Chairman Guzman and Director Mason continue to meet with the Capital Area Cesar Chavez Commission and the City of Lansing to continue with the planning of the Chavez Memorial that will be at the Adado Park, Downtown Lansing. The AFLCIO and UAW are also partners in this venture. The statue will be in a placita type setting with a recording of Chavez so it will be a learning experience for children. It will have a fountain and flower beds that will be maintained to by union members. Next steps will be to meet with architects from the city of Lansing

IX. Committee Reports:

- A. Economic Development/Agriculture: No report in Commissioner Sanchez's absence.
- B. Education/Health: Chairman Guzman said this committee's events were already reported on. He also suggested we break the events (advocacy day and the banquet) up into two days instead one day because it's too much work for one day. Chairman Guzman stated the Commission will be working on a health career day.
- C. Legislative & Civic Engagement: Commissioner Alvarado stated his report would be brief. He thanked the office staff and the Chairman for their assistance in making this day a success. He stated since he lives very far, he makes many phone calls but the office staff and the Chairman did all the leg work. He also thanked Commissioner Huizar and Rick Garcia as they assisted him with moderating the event. He stated he was happy and satisfied with the format of the event. He stated he was surprised of how candid the responses were from the legislators. Commissioner Alvarado stated that this format works well with an engaged audience. With the audience that was present, he thought we were "preaching to the choir." He stated that from now until next year's event, he will try to engage the audience to just jot down the date we select and attend the event. It is an opportunity for people to question their legislator and answers directly from the people that are making the decisions. He also stated he will task every Commissioner to commit to invite or bring at least five people with them, we would have a larger audience and the representatives will feel a little more pressure in order to answer questions.

Chairman Guzman commented that this is 15-member committee appointed by Governor Synder. There are currently 13 members, 2 vacancies. When appointed it was with the expectation that individuals would be committed and present and engaged at meetings. He stated he understands work and family commitments but asked Commissioners to recommit themselves and be more present and engagement as a Commissioner.

MOTION: Commissioner Garcia moved to accept executive and committee reports. Commissioner Rivera supported the motion. Motion carried.

X. Old Business:

- A. Student Education Summit – Already discussed
- B. Hispanic Heritage Month-Already discussed
- C. MI Hispanic Legislative Day – Already discussed

XI. New Business:

A. 2014 Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarado motioned to table the discussion on 2013 meeting schedule. Commissioner Morales supported the motion. Motion carried.

B. Election Committee

C. Next Meeting Date

D. Commissioner Rivera announced an event on Oct. 12th in Mexicantown.

E. The Strategic Planning Session will be held once the meeting concludes, starting with a working lunch, and Commissioner Julio Morales will facilitate the session.

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarado motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Noel supported the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30p.m.

Prepared by Commission staff:


Gil Guzman
Chairperson

Date

3/20/14


Norma Huizar
Secretary

Date

3/20/14